

The Sun

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FOREIGN RATES.

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There is One Safe Road.

Senator HENRY CABOT LODGE of Massachusetts performed a service of exceptional public importance in his address yesterday on the right of merchantmen to carry arms for their own defense on the high seas.

The historic attitude of America with respect to this unquestioned right was upheld by Secretary Lansing in the note sent yesterday to our representatives abroad.

The sole result of an attempt to rewrite international law at this time must be a dangerous departure from the only guide that offers even hope of safety.

Shall We Have Simplified Building Inspection?

Mayor MITCHELL and the representatives of the real estate owners in New York have succeeded in agreeing on a plan for the simplification of building inspections in this city.

The Legislature of 1915 was willing to reconstruct for the city the statutes which had produced the chaotic conditions now existing.

Super-Frankenstein.

Innumerable books have been written in the past year and a half regarding the origins of the war of wars.

That a struggle in which, directly or indirectly, the whole world is taking part can persist for any great length of time seems inconceivable.

at large. A world war differs from lesser wars not only in what it embraces, but in details that arise from its unprecedented scope.

The Church on Air Raid Reprisals.

The sentiments of the bishops of the Church of England regarding reprisals on Germany for the needless slaughter of non-combatants by air raids on unfortified towns sound commendable.

The State Department's Brief on Mexico.

Senator FALL is right when he says that the response of the State Department to his resolution of inquiry about the Mexican policy of the Government is only intended "to scatter the fire" of critics of the Administration.

Mr. Wilson's negotiations with the Mexican factions are hidden in the refusal to produce reports of diplomatic and consular secret agents which would tell the true story.

All that the Department's report has to say on the subject of the decision to outlaw VILLA and accept CARRANZA at his own valuation after he had refused to treat with the Administration is the stalest kind of information.

The Administration should have been above the attempt to show by suggestion that conditions in Mexico were not much worse in 1913, 1914 and 1915 than they were in the last three years of Mr. TAFT.

Slipping and sliding, sloshing and splashing, New York makes its way through streets that are an anachronism suggestive of the unclean Middle Ages.

Agas. Pedestrians risk life and limb on pavements more treacherous to foothold than if they had been maliciously greased.

The difficulties of the Street Cleaning Commissioner are great. Equally great are his opportunities.

Drug Addicts.

The press has been deluged recently with more or less sensational accounts of the trials and tribulations of drug victims and the inadequate provision for their treatment in our public institutions.

CrUELTY TO CONGRESSMEN.

Surgeon's Valentine to Mr. Platt of the Twenty-sixth District.

Hotel Workers.

One of Them Indorses the Idea of Special Public School Training.

Why the Feminine Eye?

From the Kansas City Times.

THE LUSITANIA'S STATUS.

Not an Armed Ship, and the United States Not Assured Germany.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: At a "current event" lecture given in Salem, N. J., on Tuesday by one Dr. George Earle Haiguel, the lecturer, who I think, was a gentleman of unusual intelligence and ability, in referring to the recent promulgation by Germany in reference to armed merchant vessels, made a statement to the effect that if such a notice had been in force before the sinking of the Lusitania that act would have been justified because she was an armed vessel.

SALEM, N. J., February 18.

The Lusitania was not an armed ship. The German Government's contention and no other foundation than false affidavits.

BIRDS IN BOOKS.

The Troglodyte Poor Creatures to the Wren in the Yard.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: Ornithology is but a side line with me, but I think I may be allowed to take that word, troglodyte, off your hands so far as the wren is concerned.

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PRAYING FOR BOTH SIDES.

A True Story Pertaining to a Much Discussed Question.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: In the year 1876 I was second officer of a big three masted schooner bound from Jamaica to Cuba with a cargo of tobacco.

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LAYING THE TAX.

Once More the Assessment of Land Values Only Is Urged.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: You print an editorial article entitled "Let Those Benefited Pay in which you call for the cost of constructing and maintaining the State highways be assessed against the property benefited by the improvement, as the costs of local improvements are now assessed in New York City.

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NEW YORK STREETS.

NEVER SO SLUSHY.

Sidewalks as Well as Roads Ways Are Buried Beneath Coating of Mud.

SNOW PILES STILL STAND.

It is an open question whether or not the streets of New York have been dirtier than they are at present.

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